

The Honorable Mark Leno
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 2765 (Huffman) – Safeguards for Aerial Pesticide Spraying in Urban Areas

Dear Chairman Leno and members of the committee:

I'm writing to express strong support for AB 2765 (Huffman), to be heard in your Committee this month. AB 2765 provides common-sense safeguards and assurances relating to the aerial spraying of pesticides in urban areas. It requires that before decisions are made about aerial pesticide spraying over urban areas, the state must provide an open public process, with full disclosure of all chemical ingredients, and with an assurance by an independent state agency that the product proposed for aerial spraying is safe for that purpose.

As you know, the proposed aerial spraying of a pesticide in 12 California counties this summer has been opposed by many of us in the community. Governor Schwarzenegger has ordered a postponement of aerial spraying intended. The spraying will not go forward until the completion of additional testing on the efficacy and toxicity of various substances that could be sprayed.

AB 2765 is one part of the Legislature's package to prevent this spraying debacle from occurring again. It will ensure that the decision-making process is open, and that safety is paramount in the Department of Agriculture's consideration of alternatives in treating pests.

I hope that you will vote for AB 2765 when it is before your Committee. Thanks so much for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,